

The following papers on the subject of arrangements to be made for the despatch of pilgrims for the Hedjaz are published for general information.

V. P. MADHAVA RAO, Plague Commissioner
in Mysore.

Letter No. 145 M. Mis., dated the 18th January 1898, from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, to the Resident in Mysore.

With reference to the letter from the Government of India, Home Department No. 2549, dated 27th November 1897, to my address on the subject of the arrangements to be made for the despatch of pilgrims for the Hedjaz, I am directed to state that this Government has arranged that pilgrims from Mysore, should be detained at a camp of observation at Beypore, near the Feroke Railway Station, until they are certified by the Medical Officer in charge to be free from infection and sent thence for embarkation from the port of Calicut. Arrangements for receiving the pilgrims at the camp will be ready in the course of a week or so but definite information regarding this will be sent to you by telegram later on. I am to request that the pilgrims may be made clearly to understand that such of them as are unable to pay for their passage by sea to Jeddah via Bombay and Karachi (above Rs. 70) will not be admitted into the camp of observation. I am also to invite attention to para 3 of the resolution of the Government of Bombay No. 7079, dated 20th December 1897, from which it will be seen that the pilgrims are to be segregated and kept under observation a second time in Sindh before they are allowed to leave Karachi and to request that you will arrange to make this known to intending pilgrims.

PILGRIMS.

Arrangements at Bombay and Karachi for the despatch of pilgrims to the Hedjaz.
General Department No. 7079, Bombay Castle, 20th December 1897.

Memorandum from the Commissioner of Customs No. 5748, dated the 4th December 1897.

Submitting the following letter No. C.—20810, dated the 3rd idem, from the Collector of Customs, Bombay. "With reference to your No. 5541 of date 24th ultimo, I have the honor to report as follows:—

"2. The Persian Steam Navigation Company has been referred to Notification No. 6560 of 25th November 1897, opening the pilgrimage from India under certain restrictions.

"3. There are now in Bombay only 67 who profess themselves pilgrims; of these none have to be despatched home as being from the prohibited area. They can be housed at Malet Bandar pilgrim shed and can be despatched to Karachi after the (10) days. Many of them will have to be sent at Government expense. I enclose a list of the 67 pilgrims.

"4. I apprehend there are many in Bombay come from up-country, who disclaim being pilgrims though they came to Bombay with the intention of going on the Haj. They will attempt to get away by indirect means. Every precaution has been taken to prevent this, but I would recommend that the probable date of sailing of a vessel from Karachi and the conditions under which pilgrims from outside the presidency will be allowed to proceed in her should be notified as soon as possible. They may then come forward for segregation in a camp of observation, and transport to Karachi."

Telegram from the Commissioner in Sindh No. 1265, dated the 12th December 1897:—

"In reference to Government Resolution 6668 of 30th will the orders in your telegram No. 6522 of 24th November, that pilgrims who come to Bombay and are shipped thence to Karachi must be segregated ten days in Sindh before departure thence, apply to pilgrims shipped at Madras Port and transhipped for Karachi in Bombay? I propose keeping them in Manora only till pilgrim ship is ready."

*Printed in the preamble of Government Resolution No. 6560, dated 25th November 1897.

Letter from the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary), No. 2630, dated the 11th December 1897:—

Communicating their instructions as regards the arrangements to be made for the despatch from Karachi of pilgrims arriving there as ordinary passengers and of pilgrims from other parts of India sent there from Bombay.

Letter from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, No. 9873-21, dated the 13th December 1897:—

"I have the honor to report for the information of Government that on the 2nd instant it was brought to my notice, by the Protector of Emigrants, that amongst the passengers who had shipped per S. S. Patna of the B. I. S. N. Company then about to sail for Muscat and other Persian Gulf Ports, there were 33 men suspected to be pilgrims.

From enquiries made by the Protector of Pilgrims it was ascertained that they were Bokhari pilgrims and they were consequently brought on shore, and are at present living in different parts of the city, being unable to proceed to their homes for want of funds.

"2. The Agents of the B. I. S. N. Company have refunded them the cost of their passage tickets minus a sum of Rs. 5 which had to be paid for bringing them from the steamer to the Ballard Pier."

Resolution:—Copy of the letter from the Government of India should be forwarded to the Commissioner in Sindh and the Commissioner of Customs for information and guidance.

2. The Commissioner in Sindh should be requested to make the necessary arrangements to carry out the instructions of the Government of India and should report the place up-country chosen as a pilgrim camp.
3. It appears to Government desirable that the Bombay pilgrims should be segregated at Malet Bandar for about ten days before they are allowed to embark, for the better security both of Karachi and of other pilgrims on the ship. The Madras pilgrims, who will presumably be taken from Bombay Harbour by the same vessels which carry the Bombay pilgrims, must also be segregated in Sindh.
4. The 33 pilgrims referred to by the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, who are assumed to be included in the 67, mentioned by the Commissioner of Customs, should be dealt with under the above instructions if they have funds to pay for their tickets in the usual way. Pilgrims who may in future come to Bombay must be treated as directed by the Government of India in paragraph 2 of their letter of the 11th instant with regard to pilgrims coming direct to Karachi.
5. A copy of these orders should be sent to the Government of India and the various Provincial Governments concerned.

In continuation of letter No. 145—M. Mis., dated the 18th January 1898, from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, to the Resident in Mysore, regarding the arrangements made for the detention at a Camp of Observation at Beypore of pilgrims for the Hedjaz from the Mysore State, the following letter No. 277—M. Mis., dated the 31st January 1898 from the Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, to the Resident in Mysore, is published for general information :—

“In continuation of my letter No. 145—M., dated the 18th instant and telegram of today, I am directed to state that the Deputy Collector of Karachi reports that the last pilgrim steamer must leave Karachi at least 35 days before the Haj, which occurs on the 1st May next. As the pilgrims must be detained for a minimum period of 10 days in the observation camp at Beypore and again for a similar period in Sindh after a voyage of about ten days from Calicut to Karachi, they should get into the camp not later than the 20th February next, and no pilgrims arriving thereafter that date can be sent on. Arrangements for receiving the pilgrims at the Beypore Camp are not yet complete, and, as soon as they are, information will be sent to you by wire”.

Telegram, dated the 31st January 1898, from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, to the Resident in Mysore :—

“Pilgrims for Hedjaz should arrive Beypore Camp by 20th February. Letter follows”

No. 153—Circular 91, dated 7th February 1898.

The following abstract of orders issued by the Government of India are communicated to the Inspecting Officers on Plague Duty at Harihar, Yeswantpur, Bangalore, Bowringpet and Goribidnur, and to Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police for information and guidance in continuation of the Rules for the inspection, detention, and escort of passengers marked VI.

In order to prevent passengers by rail from the Bombay Presidency, escaping detection by re-booking at intermediate stations, it has been arranged that the tickets of all passengers leaving the infected area should be punch-marked at the border stations of the Bombay Presidency so that there may be no difficulty in recognising them even by a dim light. The special nippers will punch a hole 4-10ths of an inch square in the long side of the tickets; but until the special nippers are provided a corner of each ticket will be cut off. Persons holding tickets punched as above or with corners cut off should be considered as coming from infected area and be subjected to observation under the rules.

2. The rules about escort of passengers from the infected area already communicated and the new Regulations under the Act which will be immediately passed, make it unnecessary to reproduce the orders of the Government of India, regarding passengers from the infected area alighting and re-booking at intermediate stations within the Mysore State.

3. Inspecting Officers are further informed that in the absence of any symptoms showing a passenger to be suffering from fever, it is unnecessary to examine his person for the purpose of finding out whether buboes are present and that this practice, if it is at present enforced anywhere, should be discontinued.

4. The Inspecting Police Inspector will give his particular attention to this matter and see that the instructions are properly understood and carried out.

Extracts from Instructions regarding Plague Administration for the general guidance of District and other Officers, issued by the Government of Bombay, under date the 10th January 1898, and re-issued by the Plague Commissioner in Mysore, with the necessary modifications as regards the designation of officials.

4. The first steps to be taken are in connection with the sickness and mortality. There are, at present, no methods in actual operation by which these can be accurately ascertained. Infectious diseases are not notified, and the registration of deaths is imperfect. Means must be adopted to improve the latter, and check the results by recording in towns all funerals which pass the octroi posts,